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[Special Report] Students become promoters for urban construction: NYCU joins hands with Chiayi City Government to launch "Cultural New Silk Road 2.0"



Maggie Hong and Ken Lin, graduate students of the Institute of Architecture

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There is a famous saying that the appearance of a city often reflects the inner world of its residents. Chiayi City is standing at a turning point with a completely new look.

Shu-Chang Kung, a professor at the Institute of Architecture at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung

In order to have a better understanding of the cultural characteristics and construction concepts of Chiayi City, Shu-Chang Kung led a team of graduate students in conducting on-site inspections. They physically visited the path of the "Cultural New Silk Road 2.0" by walking and riding YouBike, and obtained information with



University (NYCU), led a group of energetic graduate students and teamed up with the Chiayi City Government to launch the "Cultural New Silk Road 2.0" project. This is not only a bold attempt to integrate architectural design into urban governance, it is also a time for students to actively participate in urban construction, perfectly combine knowledge and practice, and draw a new blueprint for Chiayi City's future.

Shu-Chang Kung's architectural education and urban planning mission

Shu-Chang Kung is a romantic and passionate architect, as well as an educator. At the age of 33, he returned from studying abroad. He worked in the industry for 15 years, and ran a firm with more than 30 employees, but in the end he made the resolute decision to close the office and return to NYCU to teach. His return to academia is driven by his inner romantic thought and infinite passion for education.

Shu-Chang Kung is eager to inspire the next generation of architects. His teaching style is unique and he likes to introduce students to actual urban planning

the assistance and explanation from relevant central and city government units.

Maggie Hong mentioned that one of the biggest challenges encountered in this project is that many aspects can be more complicated than initially imagined. For example, despite both the Taiwan Railway and the Forest Railway being railways, their specifications and authorities differ, requiring a significant amount of time for coordination and adjustment to ensure the continued progress of the design.

However, all the hard work and effort is worth it. In September of this year, during the planning seminar and results presentation meeting, the graduate student team proposed the planning vision of "New Cultural Silk Road 2.0" and the concept for the main library campus. This proposal was well received by the industry, government, academia, and the city government also promised to incorporate students' results into plan and put it into practice.

Architectural design is integrated into urban governance and government-academic



projects so that their ideas no longer remain on paper but have the opportunity to be realized in reality. He has full respect and expectations for the creativity of the younger generation and believes that these ideas are valuable.



Shu-Chang Kung, a professor of the Institute of Architecture

More importantly, Shu-Chang Kung's teaching emphasizes that creativity is not only theoretical, but also practical. The urban planning projects he participated in, such as Hsinchu, Keelung, and Chiayi, all showed the new direction of urban development in Taiwan. However, his involvement does not end with words on paper. He leads students to engage deeply and integrate new thinking and design concepts into reality, ensuring that these ideas have a chance to be realized.

Chiayi City, with its profound historical heritage, became Shu-Chang Kung's next bold challenge. He aims to transform Chiayi City from a railway-centered city to

cooperation sets an example

Maggie Hong and Ken Lin expressed that they were very happy to participate in this project. They are pleased that their design results will have a direct impact on the city, contributing to regional development. They also appreciate the city's dedication to progress and its pursuit of a better future.

Shu-Chang Kung's educational approach enables students to actively participate in urban regeneration. He led a team of graduate students to collaborate with the Chiayi City Government on the "Cultural New Silk Road 2.0" project, integrating architectural design into urban governance and bringing new possibilities to the city.

In addition to strengthening students' theoretical knowledge, Shu-Chang Kung's teaching also provides students with opportunities to participate in social development and solve real-life problems.

Chiayi City's "Cultural New Silk Road 2.0" project is a successful example of collaboration between government and



a people-centered city, shifting the development focus towards humanities and culture. This expectation energizes students, knowing that their ideas and efforts can shape the city's future, not just remain as empty words or castles in the air.

academia. It will encourage more cooperation between academia and government departments, allowing the wisdom and creativity of the younger generation to contribute to the future of the city. We look forward to seeing more stories like this as cities continue to evolve and become more livable places that retain their cultural identity.



Team Visit to Culture New Silk Road 2.0 (Photo from Chiayi City Government)

Related Image(s) :



Maggie Hong and Ken Lin, graduate students of the Institute of Architecture



Team Visit to Culture New Silk Road 2.0 (Photo from Chiayi City Government)



Shu-Chang Kung, a professor of the Institute of Architecture





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